

Patent Application No. 10/756,881
Amendment A in response to
Office Action mailed March 20, 2006
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Atty Dkt No. 200313031-1

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Remarks/Arguments

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims, specification and drawings

In response to the Office Action mailed March 20, 2006, independent claims 1, 11, and 20 have been amended. Dependent claims 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Dependent claim 6 has been canceled since its limitations have been incorporated into its independent parent claim. Dependent claims 14-17 have been canceled.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 6-13, and 18-20 are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that each and every feature recited in the amended drawing and/or amended claims are fully supported in the specification as filed. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103(a)

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claim 6, 18, and 19.

Claim 1 And Its Dependent Claims

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claim 6. In particular, in the reason for allowing claim 6, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 (and similarly claim 18) is allowed due to its recitation of the detailed formulas and variables that cannot be overcome by the prior art.

Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 6 into independent claim 1, thereby rendering amended claim 1 allowable at least due to the reason mentioned by the Examiner.

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Further, the claims that depend from the amended independent claim 1 recite their own additional independently patentable features. These dependent claims (2-5, 7-10) should also be deemed novel, nonobvious, and patentable over cited art of record, alone or in combination. The allowance of amended claim 1 and its pending dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Claim 11 And Its Dependent Claims

Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 6 into independent claim 11. It is respectfully submitted that the combination represented by amended claim 11 is now novel, nonobvious, and patentable, at least due to the recitation, in the combination, that

*an affinity weight for two modules of the modules is
provided by a formula $f_1w_1 + f_2w_2 + \dots f_kw_k$ each weight
 w_i being associated with a factor indicating a relationship
between the two modules, and each f_i is a weight
percentage of the factor*

Further, the claims that depend from the amended independent claim 1 recite their own additional independently patentable features. These dependent claims (12 and 13) are also novel, nonobvious, and patentable over cited art of record, alone or in combination. The allowance of amended claim 11 and its pending dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Claims 18 and 19

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claim 18 and 19.

Claim 20

Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 6 into independent claim 20. It is respectfully submitted that the combination represented by amended claim 20 is now novel, nonobvious, and patentable, at least due to the recitation, in the combination, that

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*an affinity weight for two modules of the modules is
provided by a formula $f_1w_1 + f_2w_2 + \dots f_kw_k$ each weight
 w_i being associated with a factor indicating a relationship
between the two modules, and each f_i is a weight
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The allowance of amended claim 20 is respectfully solicited.

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Conclusion

In view of the discussion herein, Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at 408-257-5500.

A one-month extension of time is petitioned and the fee therefor is included herewith. If any additional petition is required to facilitate the entry of the present amendment, please consider this communication a petition therefore as well. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees beyond the amount enclosed which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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